IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) The oligonucleotide of claim 6 or 7, wherein the antisense nucleic acid is about 20 nucleotides in length.

3. (Previously Presented) The oligonucleotide of claim 6 or 7, wherein the antisense nucleic acid sequence is phosphorothiolated.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Withdrawn) The oligonucleotide of claim 6 or 7, wherein the antioxidant enzyme is catalase or phospholipid glutathione peroxidase.

6. (Currently Amended) An oligonucleotide comprising an antisense nucleic acid sequence that is about 18 to 26 nucleotides in length, is at least 90% complementary to and ~~is capable of~~ binds specifically ~~binding~~ to a contiguous portion of a nucleic acid that encodes a human ~~antioxidant enzyme selected from the group consisting of~~ manganese superoxide dismutase, ~~copper and zinc superoxide dismutase, catalase, phospholipid glutathione peroxidase, and cytosolic glutathione peroxidase~~; wherein the contiguous portion includes the start codon of the nucleic acid encoding the ~~human antioxidant enzyme~~ manganese superoxide dismutase.

7. (Currently Amended) An oligonucleotide comprising an antisense nucleic acid sequence that is about 18 to 26 nucleotides in length, is 100% complementary to and ~~is capable of~~ binds specifically ~~binding~~ to a contiguous portion of a nucleic acid that encodes a human ~~antioxidant enzyme selected from the group consisting of~~ manganese superoxide dismutase, ~~copper and zinc superoxide dismutase, catalase, phospholipid glutathione peroxidase, and cytosolic glutathione~~

~~peroxidase~~; wherein the contiguous portion includes the start codon of the nucleic acid encoding the ~~human antioxidant enzyme~~ manganese superoxide dismutase.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a tumor in a mammal comprising reducing antioxidant enzyme levels in a cell of a tumor by administering to a mammal having the tumor a therapeutically effective amount of ~~therapeutic agent comprising~~ an antisense nucleic acid sequence that is about 18 to 26 nucleotides in length, is at least 90% complementary to and ~~is capable of~~ binds specifically ~~binding~~ to a contiguous portion of a nucleic acid that encodes a human manganese superoxide dismutase, and wherein the contiguous portion includes the start codon of the nucleic acid encoding the human manganese superoxide dismutase.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the therapeutic agent is injected into the tumor.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the mammal is a human.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the therapeutic agent further comprises a delivery vehicle.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the delivery vehicle is lipofectamine or –[1-(2,3-dioleoyloxy)propyl]-*N,N,N*-trimethylammonium methyl sulfate ("DOTAP").

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the antisense nucleic acid sequence is phosphorothiolated.

16-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the antisense nucleic acid sequence is 90% complementary to the contiguous portion of the nucleic acid ~~for the antioxidant enzyme~~ that encodes a human manganese superoxide dismutase.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the antisense nucleic acid sequence is 100% complementary to the contiguous portion of the nucleic acid ~~for the antioxidant enzyme~~ that encodes a human manganese superoxide dismutase.

20. (Previously Presented) An oligonucleotide comprising an antisense nucleic acid sequence that specifically binds to a nucleic acid encoding an antioxidant enzyme start codon, wherein the sequence is SEQ ID NO:2.

21. (Previously Presented) The oligonucleotide of claim 20, wherein the antisense nucleic acid sequence is phosphorothiolated.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Withdrawn) The oligonucleotide of claim 6 or 7, wherein the antioxidant enzyme is copper and zinc superoxide dismutase.

24. (Withdrawn) The oligonucleotide of claim 6 or 7, wherein the antioxidant enzyme is catalase.

25. (Withdrawn) The oligonucleotide of claim 6 or 7, wherein the antioxidant enzyme is phospholipid glutathione peroxidase.

26. (Withdrawn) The oligonucleotide of claim 6 or 7, wherein the antioxidant enzyme is cytosolic glutathione peroxidase.

27. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the tumor is breast cancer.

28. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the tumor is glioma.

29. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the tumor is melanoma.

30. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 6, which is 18 to 26 nucleotides in length and is at least 90 % identical to SEQ ID NO: 2.

31. (New) The oligonucleotide of claim 6, the sequence of which consists of SEQ ID NO: 2.